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la notion d'une *différenciation sans cesse élarge,* qui ne nie point la dépendance de la société politique à l'égard du sol, mais qui à côté de *l'adaptation passive* et du déterminisme naturel, reconnaît la part légitime de *l'adaptation active* et du déterminisme social." MARK JEFFERSON.

PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY

Neue Grundlagen der Meteorologie. Von Paul Hoitsy. 107 pp. Maps. Franklin-Verein, Budapest, 1911. Mk. 2. 10 x 7.

The author has well named his book. The *Grundlagen* are not only new, but most meteorologists will consider them unsafe. When the sun and moon are in certain special relations to one another, and to the earth, there results (so says the author) an effect upon pressure distribution on the earth's surface, which, in turn, controls weather. The peculiar astronomical combination can be predicted in advance. Hence long-range forecasts are possible. The critical dates for the year 1912 are given in an appendix. The author expresses his disbelief in the old superstitions which have to do with the relations between the moon's phases, and the moon's attraction, and the weather. His studies have led him too in a new direction in which he believes meteorology can make rapid advance. He gives no law governing the development of weather in general, but considers that certain cyclones and anticyclones, of a special origin, which appear at certain critical times, are controlled by this combination of solar and lunar influences. These special pressures and weather conditions repeat themselves with such regularity that even exceptions do not occur. The author modestly says that, although unable himself to establish the general laws of weather sequence, he has indicated the way for others to follow.

R. DEC. WARD.

Grandeur et Figure de la Terre. Par J. B. J. Delambre. Ouvrage augmenté de notes, de cartes et publié par les soins de G. Bigourdan. viii and 401 pp. Gauthier-Villars, Paris, 1912. 15 frs. 10 x 6½.

We have one of Delambre's two posthumous works in this account of the first attempt to determine the size of the earth by actual measurement. Bigourdan's careful revision of the original sees light opportunely in the wake of his countrymen's labors in Ecuador and Peru. He has amplified Delambre's manuscript, the additions or alterations having been placed in brackets or parentheses. The original character of the work has been preserved neverthless so that a technical version of the first arc measurements is laid before the reader's eyes. Beginning with the first determination of the French meridian and an arc of a great circle in Lapland, the account of degree measurements made after 1800 is set forth in Delambre's wonted style.

The unfinished condition of the original is felt despite Bigourdan's ably prosecuted task. He cannot be blamed for omissions arising from this source. His thoroughness is exemplified by the insertion of maps which Delambre had altogether failed to provide.

The work possesses historical value which is bound to strike the attention of geographers interested in the growth of modern methods of determining the diameter of the earth. LEON DOMINIAN.

BIOGRAPHY

Michael Heilprin and His Sons. A Biography. By Gustav Pollak. xv and 540 pp. Ills. Dodd, Mead & Co., New York, 1912. $3.50. 9 x 6½.

To those who knew the Heilprins, this volume will serve as a memorial wholly worthy of the subject, a great father and two sons who left their mark upon their time. Yet, that is but narrowing the value of such a work as this. When sciolism is so well placed, when education seems so obscured in the rush for degrees and yet more degrees and the examination paper is the